## **Supporting Information**

for

## Strategic Design of 2,2'-Bipyridine Derivatives to Modulate Metal–Amyloid-β Aggregation

Yonghwan Ji,<sup>1,§</sup> Hyuck Jin Lee,<sup>2,§</sup> Minjeong Kim, Geewoo Nam,<sup>1</sup> Shin Jung C. Lee,<sup>1</sup> Jaeheung Cho,<sup>3</sup> Cheol-Min Park,<sup>1,\*</sup> and Mi Hee Lim<sup>1,\*</sup>

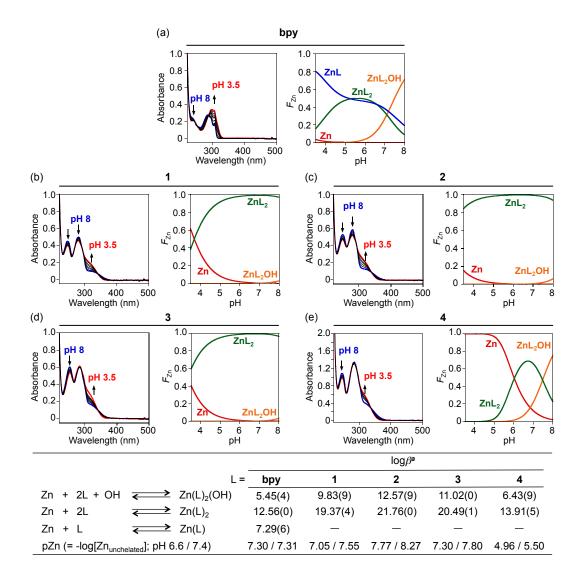
<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Ulsan 44919, Republic of Korea

<sup>2</sup>School of Life Sciences, UNIST, Ulsan 44919, Republic of Korea

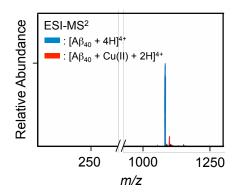
<sup>3</sup>Department of Emerging Materials Science, Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), Daegu 42988, Republic of Korea

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed:  $\underline{mhlim@unist.ac.kr} \text{ and } \underline{cmpark@unist.ac.kr}$ 

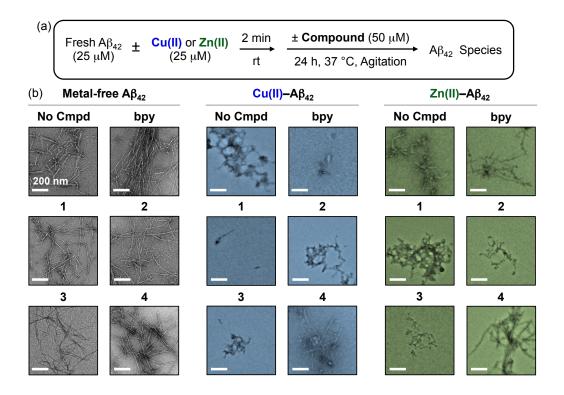
<sup>§</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work.



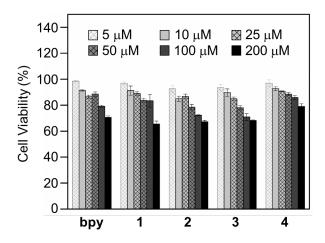
**Figure S1.** Solution speciation studies of Zn(II)–L complexes (L = **bpy** and **1–4**). UV–vis variable-pH titration spectra (left) and solution speciation diagrams (right) of (a) **bpy**, (b) **1**, (c) **2**, (d) **3**, and (e) **4** upon incubation with Zn(II) ( $F_{Zn}$  = fraction of species at given pH). Stability constants (logβ) of Zn(II)–L complexes are summarized in the table (bottom). Charges are omitted for clarity. Conditions: [L] = 25 μM (for **bpy** and **1–3**) or 100 μM (for **4**); [ZnCl<sub>2</sub>] = 12.5 μM (for **bpy** and **1–3**) or 50 μM (for **4**); room temperature. <sup>a</sup>The error in the last digit is shown in the parentheses.



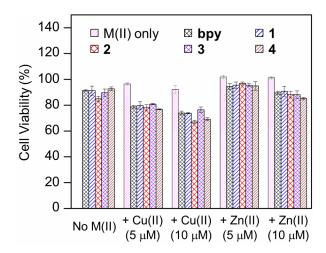
**Figure S2.** Tandem MS (ESI-MS<sup>2</sup>) spectrum of the +4-charged peak at 1151 m/z from the sample containing Aβ<sub>40</sub>, Cu(II), and **4**. The ESI-MS<sup>2</sup> results supported that the peak was assigned to  $[A\beta + 2Cu + 2K + 4H_2O - 2H]^{4+}$ , thus indicating no formation of a ternary complex composed of Aβ<sub>40</sub>, Cu(II), and **4**. Conditions:  $[Aβ_{40}] = 100 \mu M$ ;  $[CuCl_2] = 100 \mu M$ ;  $[compound] = 500 \mu M$ ; 20 mM ammonium acetate, pH 7.2 (1% v/v DMSO); 37 °C; 1 h incubation; no agitation; 10-fold diluted samples were injected to the mass spectrometer. The relative abundance of each spectrum was individually normalized based on the highest peak.



**Figure S3.** TEM images of the resultant metal-free  $A\beta_{42}$  and metal- $A\beta_{42}$  aggregates generated upon treatment with **bpy** and **1–4**. (a) Scheme of the experiments. (b) TEM images of the 24 h incubated  $A\beta_{42}$  samples from Figure 6. Scale bar = 200 nm.



**Figure S4.** Toxicity of **bpy** and **1–4** in SH-SY5Y cells. Cells were treated with **bpy** or **1–4** for 24 h at 37 °C. Cell viability (%) was determined by the MTT assay. The viability values were calculated compared to those of cells treated with DMSO only (1% v/v). Error bars represent the standard error from three independent experiments (P < 0.05).



**Figure S5.** Toxicity of **bpy** and **1–4** in SH-SY5Y cells in the presence of metal ions. Cells were treated with **bpy** or **1–4** (10  $\mu$ M) with metal ions (5 or 10  $\mu$ M) for 24 h at 37 °C. Cell viability (%) was determined by the MTT assay. The viability values of cells were calculated compared to those of cells treated with DMSO only (1% v/v). Error bars represent the standard deviation from three independent experiments (P < 0.05).